

## Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

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SCI-06 OMB-01 TRSE-00 DRC-01 AEC-11 /176 W

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R 061600Z DEC 73

FM AMCONSUL STUTTGART

TO AMEMBASSY BONN

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1920

U.S. MISSION BERLIN 326

AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUESSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL MUNICH

UNCLAS STUTTGART 1016

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, GW

SUBJ: FILBRINGER'S SPEECH ON ENERGY

### SUMMARY

B-W MINISTER PRESIDENT FILBINGER, IN LANDTAG ADDRESS ON ENERGY PROBLEM, CRITICIZED FEDERAL GERMAN GOVERNMENT FOR FAILURE TO FORESEE OIL CRISIS AND DEVELOP ENERGY POLICY. #HE ANNOUNCED SEEMINGLY TOOTHLESS B-W GOVERNMENT OIL ALLOCATION POLICY AND INTENTION TO SEEK ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SOURCES FOR B- W, INCLUDING NUCLEAR. ENSUING LANDTAG DEBATE WAS UNINSPIRING, PARTISAN EXCHANGE, WHICH EXPRESSED FRUSTRATIONS BUT OFFERED NO SOLUTIONS. THREAT OF FUEL SHORTAGE, ADDED TO PRESENT TIGHT MONEY POLICY, ARE RAISING LOCAL FEARS OF RECESSION.

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1. IN LANDTAG ADDRESS ON ENERGY PROBLEM, B-W MINISTER PRESIDENT FILBINGER ADMITTED FUEL CRISIS HAD CAUGHT GERMANS BY SURPRISE AND BLAMED FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FOR FAILURE TO GIVE TIMELY AND ADEQUATE WARNING OF POTENTIAL CRISIS. OIL ACCOUNTS FOR 70 PERCENT OF B-W PRIMARY ENERGY SOURCES, HE SAID, BUT CURRENT INVENTORIES OF INDUSTRIAL FUEL OIL TOTAL ONLY 65 PERCENT OF AVAILABLE TANK CAPACITY AND OF HOUSEHOLD FUEEL OIL, 80 PERCENT. HE SHARPLY CRITICIZED FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FOR HAVING FAILED TO DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE OIL AND ENERGY POLICY, LEAVING IT INSTEAD TO OIL COMPANIES TO INSURE DOMESTIC SUPPLY. HE CALLED FOR (1) GREATER FRANKNESS ON PART OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IN KEEPING PEOPLE ABREAST OF DIMENSIONS OF FUEL PROBLEM, (2) BETTER FEDERAL EFFORTS TO INFORM STATE AUTHORITIES ON FUEL PROBLEMS AND POLICIES, AND (3) EC SOLIDARITY AGAINST BLACKMAINL BY OIL-SUPPLYING COUNTRIES. IN THIS CONNECTION, HE SAW OIL CRISIS AS REAL OPPORTUNITY, IF SEIZED, TO PROMOTE EUROPEAN UNITY. EC SHOULD SEEK AGREEMENTS WITH PRODUCING COUNTRIES TO INSURE STABLE OIL SUPLPLY.

2. FILBINGER FURTHER ASSERTED THAT B-W GOVERNMENT EXPECTS OIL CONCERNS OPERATING IN B-W TO MAINTAIN PRICE DISCIPLINE, OTHERWISE GOVERNMENT WOULD BE FORCED TO TAKE UNSPECIFIED CORRECTIVE MEASURES. HE ANNOUNCED FORMATION OF B-W GOVERNMENT OIL CRISIS COMMITTEE, CHAIRED BY ECONOMICS MINISTER EBERLE AND COOPERATING CLOSELY WITH POWER PLANTS, LARGE ENERGY CONSUMERS AND LABOR. THE COMMITTEE HE SAID, HAS ALREADY ESTABLISHED PRIORITIES FOR OIL ALLOCATION: (1) PUBLIC UTILITIES, ESPECIALLY POWER PLANTS AND LOCAL MASS TRANSPORT, (2) ECONOMIC ENTERPRISES OF GENERAL IMPORTANCE, AND(3) PRIVATE HOUSEHOLDS. NO MECHANISM FOR IMPLEMENTATION WAS MENTIONED, HOWEVER. HE DID DECLARE THAT B-W GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES WILL BE EXPECTED TO OBSERVE INTERNAL FUEL CONSERVATION MEASURES, AND B-W GOVERNMENT WILL ALSO SEEK TO PROMOTE CONSTRUCTION OF NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS, INCREASE OF REFINERY CAPACITY, PROCUREMENT OF NATURAL GAS, AND RESEARCH INTO NEW FUEL TECHNOLOGIES.

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3. FILBINGER WENT ON TO CRITICIZE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT S ECONOMIC POLICIES, DECLARING THAT RECENT DECISION TO HALT INFLUX OF FOREIGN LABOR WAS TOO LONG IN COMING. # HE STRONGLY DEFENDED MARKET ECONOMY AND WARNED WAGE NEGOTIATORS NOT TO COME UP WITH WAGE INCREASES BEYOND THE LIMITS OF THE RISE IN PRODUCTIVITY.

4. ENSUING LANDTAG DEBATE ON ENERGY PROBLEM WAS CONDUCTED AT LOWEST PARTISAN LEVEL, REVEALING EMBARRASSMENT AND FRUSTATION OF ALL FACTIONS BUT OFFERING NO CONCRETE SOLUTIONS TO TRYING FUEL PROBLEM FACING B-W AND GERMANY. POOR QUALITY OF DEBATE WAS RIDICULED IN LOCAL PRESS.

5. COMMENT: B-W GOVERNMENT HAS A LONG WAY YET TO GO IN DEVELOPING CAPABILITY TO DEAL WITH EMERGING OIL CRISIS AND LONG-RUN ENERGY PROBLEM. PLAN OUTLINED IN LANDTAG ADDRESS IS VAGUE AND FULL OF PLATITUDES, BEST SEEN AS FIRST EFFORT TO BUY TIME AND PREPARE PUBLIC. B-W IS LARGE OIL CONSUMER, USING OVER 14 MILLION MT AS FUEL IN 1972, ABOUT 30 PERCENT FOR TRANSPORT, 30 PERCENT FOR MANUFACTURING, AND 40 PERCENT FOR OTHER SECTORS, INCLUDING HOME HEATING. ALREADY CONCERNED ABOUT FUTURE EFFECT OF CENTRAL BANK'S TIGHT MONEY POLICY, BUSINESS AND LABOR ARE UNEASY ABOUT ADDED EFFECT OF IMPENDING FUEL SHORTAGE AND ARE BEGINNING TO EXPRESS FEARS OF RECESSION. RUCHTI

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